Release of GRIN-Global Version 1.0

The USDA/ARS, Bioversity International, and the Global Crop Diversity Trust are pleased to announce the release of GRIN-Global System version 1.0 –we sincerely appreciate your patience!

GRIN-Global version 1.0 is intended for production use. To preserve data you loaded into version 0.9, you must reload them into this new version 1.0.

During the past six months, the development team implemented major changes in the GRIN-Global system based on concepts developed by that team as well as feedback from external testers. Although the initial development project for GRIN-Global has concluded, additional improvements to the system will be forthcoming.

Your timely adoption of GRIN-Global 1.0 and feedback regarding this new system are extremely important to its success. We greatly appreciate your becoming familiar with and evaluating its capacity to support your data management needs. We hope that an active GRIN-Global user community will develop and continually communicate suggestions and share information that will benefit all genebanks.

Although the source code for GRIN-Global can be changed at this 1.0 release stage, we recommend that **genebanks do not change the code. By adhering to the current source code that will be freely available, genebanks will be able to deploy future updates and new features without compromising their database content**.

As Promised, Version 1.0 Supports:

Database engines:
- MS SQL Server
- MySQL
- PostgreSQL
- Oracle

Languages:
- English, Spanish, Russian, French and Arabic
- Complete language translations of codes, interface object names, and dataview field names

    The GRIN-Global wiki contains a link to the current online data dictionary , which will be maintained and revised to help users understand the data fields.

Curator Tool Enhancements:
- Order Processing and Cooperator wizards
- Search tool refinements and enhancements to work with a new search engine

Administrator Tool Enhancements:
- Fully functional security system

- Additional Admin Import Wizard dataviews to assist with initial importing of the complementary "child files"

Server Enhancements
- Basic set of dataviews for the Import Wizard for sequential importation of existing "parent table" data into GRIN-Global (supplementary child table data are imported into the system via the Curator Tool and existing dataviews)
- A revamped search engine to improve database search performance

Public Website Enhancements
- User account/information management
- Google mapping with accession geographic data
- Order completion and status management
- User "save favorites" capability
- Persistent search result preference
- Observation data display (phenotypic + genotypic), ability to export data to Excel
- Search by list of accession numbers/identifiers
- Search by descriptor
- Preliminary advanced search/filter by certain important data columns
- SMTA work flow in order process
- User templates and dynamic elements so admin can alter site style easily

Your Feedback is Critical!

Please direct all questions and correspondence to GRINGlobal-Helpdesk@cgiar.org This will ensure that several people will receive your e-mail message and can assist you.

As genebanks implement and use GRIN-Global the system in production, we anticipate receiving direct feedback to guide development of future enhancements, features and functions. The attached document details some of the directions and recommendations for installing this latest version. Just as a reminder, the GRIN-Global wiki training page contains a complete set of documentation and will be revised with upcoming releases. Also remember that GRIN-Global requires Windows Operating Systems above the Home Basic level.

Again, thank you very much for your patience and support. We look forward to hearing from you as GRIN-Global 1.0 is implemented in your genebank.

Pete Cyr & the GRIN-Global Team

Installation Directions & Recommendations

Please read these directions in their entirety before proceeding.

Manually uninstall earlier GRIN-Global versions (Use Windows' Control Panel | Add or Remove Programs)

Click on the following link as the source for the GRIN-Global 1.0 Version:
http://distribution.grin-global.org/gringlobal/downloads/default.aspx

"Updater" (Installer) Program

The "Updater" is the GRIN-Global installation program. You will observe a significant difference in the Updater window: there are now three server components whereas previously there were four. This reflects the significant changes made to the search engine.

The Updater program downloads all of the GRIN-Global software, dataviews, and requisite codes. As an alternative, when downloading the server updates with Updater, if you prefer to also load a complete set of the U.S. GRIN geography and taxonomy tables, press and hold down Ctrl+Shift; then click the Download / Install button. The full documentation contains helpful hints that may apply to various systems.

To apply the software to test sample data, you can download test data files available on the GRIN-Global wiki page. Look for the link "Import Wizard & Code Group Editor Exercise (Admin Tool)" under "Training Resources."

If you prefer to load your organization's test data, you must either use the Admin Tool's Import Wizard to import the main parent files, the Curator Tool to copy data from your existing spreadsheets or databases, or input your organization's test data directly into the Curator Tool.

Testing the Public Website

A full copy of the U.S. GRIN database has been stored in the GRIN-Global test server in Beltsville. Note that when you test the GRIN-Global Test Public Website, http://distribution.grin-global.org/gringlobal/search.aspx, you will be connected to this server and you can conduct searches on a full set of the public GRIN data. **Please note: Germplasm requests CANNOT be processed from the test public website.**

GRIN-Global Software Disclaimer

This software was created by USDA/ARS, with Bioversity International coordinating testing and feedback from the international genebank community. Development was supported financially by USDA/ARS and by a major grant from the Global Crop Diversity Trust. This statement by USDA does not imply approval of these enterprises to the exclusion of others which might also be suitable.

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